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Introduction

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March 1960

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considering sterilization for the individual, attention is given to the way the individual functions as a total person and related environmental factors. This approach makes it necessary to take into consideration the effects of sterilization for each individual. It is recognized that these effects will be physical as well as emotional and that there will be both positive and negative factors to consider.

Sterilization, to be effective, must be regarded as an integral part of a broad system of protection and supervision of those individuals unable to meet their responsibilities as parents and citizens. In the plan for sterilization, it is necessary to have the participation of the individual and of his close family connections, as well as the participation of the social worker in cooperation with the physician, psychiatrist, and psychologist.